

Blues set for section title

Banbury United 0, Wycombe Wanderers 2.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS, out of the running for the Isthmian League championship and out of the F.A. Amateur Cup, virtually made sure of at least winning Section B of the Premier Midweek Floodlight League on Tuesday night, when they claimed three points from their visit to Banbury United.

Wanderers, with three matches left — home to Wokingham and away to Chesham and Marlow — are now four points clear of Wokingham with a game in hand. And with their closest rivals having to travel to Wycombe and Oxford for their remaining matches, it looks cut and dried for the Blues.

The P.M.F.L. may seem small fry compared with recent seasons but with John Maskell having to wear the number 12 shirt on Tuesday, it typified Wycombe's injury situation and they were worth the points at Banbury.

Mick Ashwin, who scored two goals in the 8-0 thrashing of United in December, returned to the Wycombe side but understandably found it hard to fit into the set-up.

ON A PLATE

Banbury, whose victory over Endersby in the Southern League last Saturday was their first since mid-December, took the opportunity to give two youngsters a trial, goalkeeper Ian Hicklin and winger Paul Day. Young Hicklin was exposed several times by the Wycombe attack and the 'keeper virtually handed them their second goal on a plate.

Wycombe goalkeeper Peter Spittle was forced to make two memorable saves from the Banbury attack, the first of which came in the 5th minute when he dived well to hold Duester's drive.

Larry Pritchard hammered in a left foot shot which cannoned off the crossbar in the seventh minute and five minutes later Wanderers went ahead. Pritchard produced one of his specialist complete circle turns and crossed left-footed to Tony Amos who glanced his header past the stranded 'keeper. Referee McKnight allowed the goal after consulting his linesman.

United, probing the middle with long passes, for Foster and Duester to chase, kept the visitors back four busy but, on the whole, both attacks spoilt their build-ups with inferior passing.

An early goal in the second half ensured the points for Wycombe. Amos sent in a long, curling cross from the wing and as Hicklin and centre back Ken Butler hesitated, Brian Langfield swept in to crash the ball into the roof of the net.

All too little was seen of Langfield for the rest of the half, however. He spent most of his time waiting patiently on the wing, usually unmarked. But with Wycombe concentrating their attacks through the middle and playing the ball too short, his talents were wasted.

Banbury occasionally sparked into life and again Spittle saved well from Duester and then raced out to punch away another attack. Ashwin nerted for Wycombe but his effort was disallowed in the 80th minute and with three minutes to go, Spittle came to Wycombe's rescue again when he blocked Mick Sherrell's hard left foot shot.

Wycombe had the last word, however, in the dying seconds when Rob Williams made a few yards of space but sent a weak shot straight at the 'keeper.

S.E.

BANBURY: I. Hicklin, P. Svenson, R. Haynes, C. Mouldsdaie, K. Butler, G. Crognale, P. Day, T. Foster, P. Duester, D. Matthews, M. Sherrell, sub M. Pollard (not used).

WYCOMBE: P. Spittle; I. Rundle, D. Bullock, J. Delaney, P. Birdseye; R. Williams, A. Gane, L. Pritchard, A. Amos, M. Ashwin, B. Langfield, sub J. Maskell (not used).

REFEREE: C. H. McKnight (Aylesbury).

Half time: 0-1. Goalscorers: Amos (12), Langfield (53).

Attendance: 183.

PREMIER MIDWEEK FLOODLIGHT LEAGUE Section B

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Wycombe W. | 7 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 25 | 3 | 14 |
| Wokingham T. | 8 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 10 |
| Marlow | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 12 | 12 | 7 |
| Banbury U. | 8 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 10 | 20 | 7 |
| Oxford C. | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 11 | 5 |
| Chesham U. | 6 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 13 | 3 |